



Canadian Security
Intelligence Service

Service canadien du
renseignement de sécurité

Analytical Brief Précis analytique



SECRET//CEO

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Diagolon Participation in the Freedom Convoy 2022 and Beyond

The 2022 Freedom Convoy is part of the broader anti-public health measures movement. The convoy drew thousands of protesters to downtown Ottawa beginning at the end of January. While supporters are not homogeneous in either their grievances or organization, the majority oppose the federal government's proof of vaccination policy for cross-border drivers as well as broader public health mandates related to COVID-19; many demonstrators have stated that they plan to continue occupying Ottawa until all COVID-19 mandates are removed. The convoy has attracted significant media attention and support from those who share their grievances and frustrations with the federal government. s.38

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Key Assessments

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- The Service assesses that key figures within Diagolon are currently refraining from any public calls for violence at the Freedom Convoy 2022 in an attempt to avoid being publicly labelled as extremists by the media, which would detract from the overall purpose of the demonstration to remove all COVID-19 mandates. s.38
- The Service assesses that key figures within Diagolon are using their support for the convoy to recruit new members; bolster their online presence; and, further promote their anti-public health grievances. Increased membership and an increased online presence will likely

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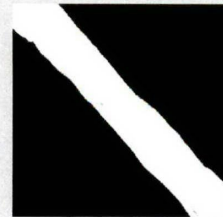
What is Diagolon?

Telegram user and online personality, Jeremy Mackenzie, created Diagolon in January 2021 as a fictitious country to inspire unity among like-minded individuals. It represents a symbol of defiance against the government's COVID-19 restrictions and mandated vaccinations. Diagolon members also voice grievances against increasing restrictions on firearms and promote a variety of conspiracy theories related to the government at large. s.38

Throughout 2021, Diagolon has expanded from an online presence to a real-world group that conducts in-person meetings across the country. The Freedom Convoy 2022 allowed for a number of Diagolon members to congregate in Ottawa, where some members met in person for the first time. s.38

In addition to Mackenzie, Derek Harrison and Alexander Vriend are also known and vocal members of the Diagolon community. s.38

For further information on Diagolon, consult the "Diagolon Dictionary". s.38



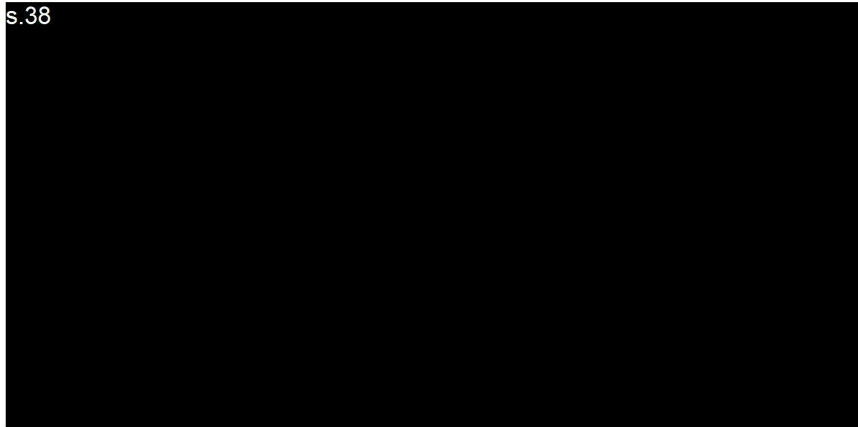
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result in more people adopting Diagonon's extreme views. There has already been a noted escalation in anti-law enforcement and anti-government rhetoric online since key figures in Diagonon pledged support for the convoy. The Service assesses that some members may be inspired to commit acts of violence on behalf of the group should COVID-19 mandates and restrictions not be removed. s.38

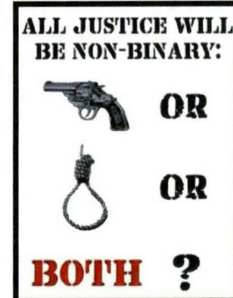
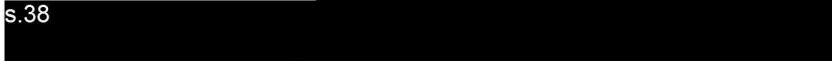
The Violent Rhetoric of Diagonon

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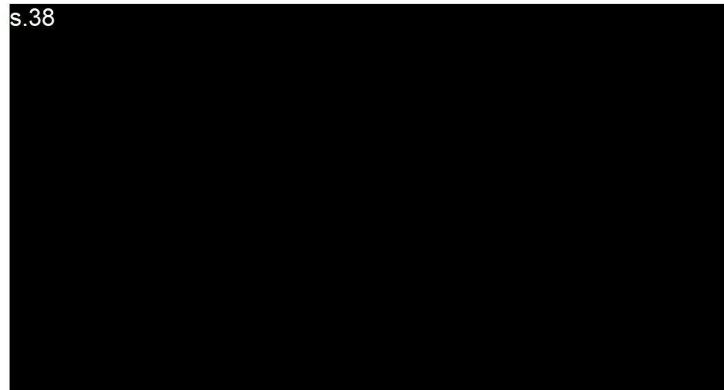
Through the creation of Diagonon, Mackenzie has brought together a large group of people with a mindset similar to his own. s.38

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Diagonon Participation in Freedom Convoy 2022

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In Jeremy Mackenzie's Own Words

"This is the good guys versus the bad guys [Canadian government]. The showdown has finally fucking begun and it has begun in Canada... you could go be a part of the story now."

"This is the beach, get yourself out there."

Mackenzie discussing protests against COVID-19.

"The Beach' is a common saying in Diagonon to reference their own version of World War II D - Day. (U)

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Leaders of Diagonon did not call for violent participation in the Freedom Convoy 2022 and specifically asked that members attend to peacefully support the convoy. s.38

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Leaders within Diagonon believe that any attempt to label demonstrators in the Freedom Convoy 2022 as extremists would reduce the legitimacy of the demonstration and would allow for further police and government intervention against demonstrators. Moreover, two events prior to Freedom Convoy 2022 reinforced the leadership call for non-violent participation in the demonstration:

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Coutts, Alberta Blockade

A partial blockade at the Coutts border crossing started January 29, 2022 as part of the anti-public health measures movement. Many of the participants are driven by a similar range of narratives and grievances as seen at the Ottawa occupation, including their opposition to some- if not all- public health restrictions related to COVID-19. As of February 15, 2022, the RCMP had arrested 13 individuals in connection with the blockade and seized weapons, firearms ammunition and body armour. The RCMP notes that several participants at the blockade are members of Diagonon. See Diagonon flag on body armour.



The 'false flag' conspiracy was raised again during the first weekend of the demonstration when Diagonon membership suggested that the Federal government might use this demonstration as a means to create a 'false flag' event and may even hire actors in an attempt to instigate demonstrators, thereby allowing the federal government to bring in the military or arrest participants in the convoy to discredit the entire demonstration. This paranoia within members of Diagonon resulted in Mackenzie and Harrison conducting online live streams and interviews from their hotel room in

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³ A false flag is a popular term among conspiracy theorists that refers to covert plans and actions by various governments to hide the actual source of responsibility by blaming another party. s.38

Ottawa on January 29 to prove that they were not physically present on Parliament Hill that day (in the event of an attack). s.38

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Increased Diagonal Membership

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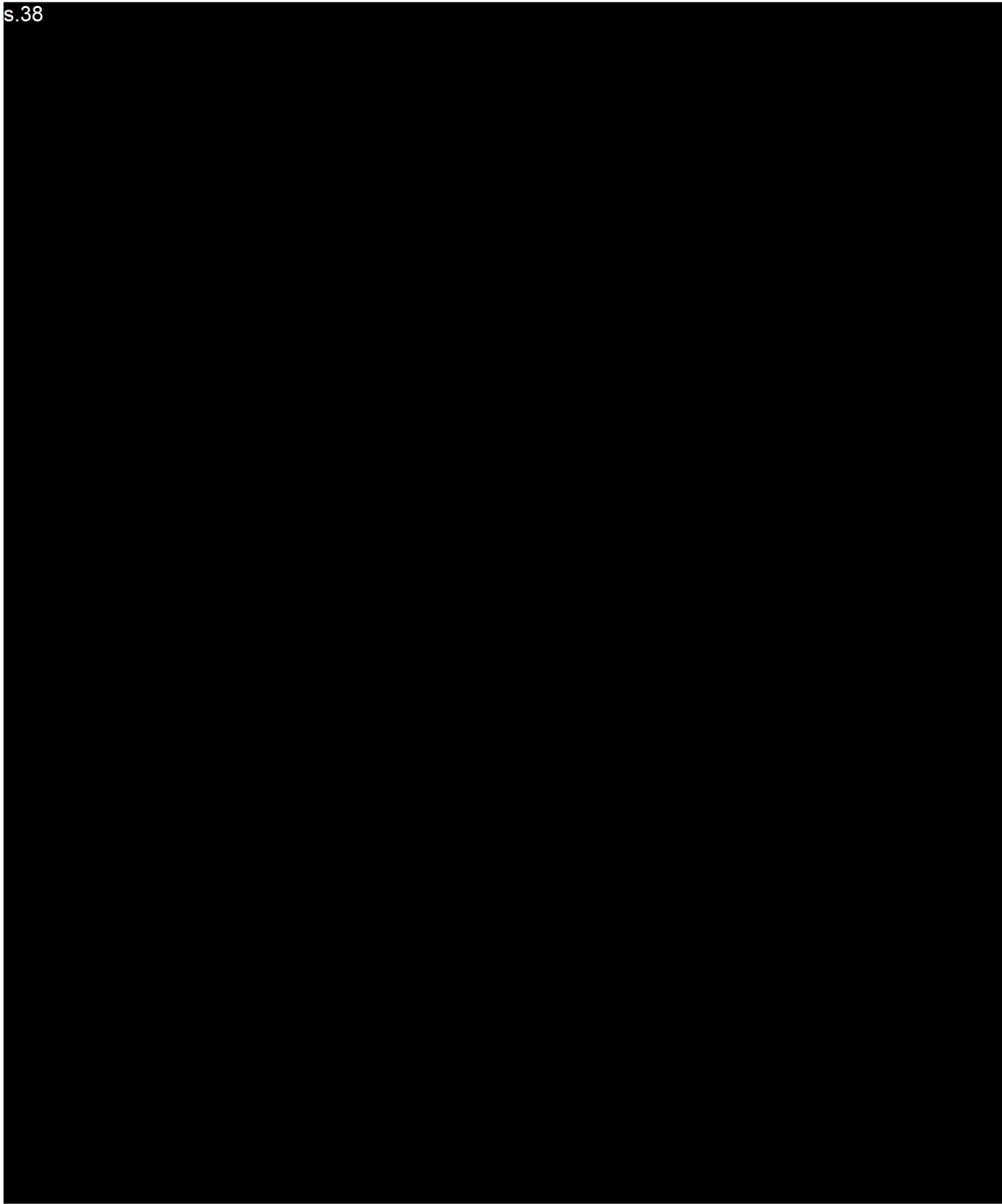


Increased Diagonal membership will also increase the number of consumers of the group's extreme anti-government, anti-authority and anti-law enforcement messaging. Though there were calls for peaceful protest among Diagonal at the onset of the Freedom Convoy 2022, the tone of open messaging from key figures within the group has changed over the past week. There have been more overt calls for members of Diagonal to travel to Ottawa and "hold the line", as this demonstration has morphed into a "general strike of everyone who is fucking done with what has been done to this country." Key figures within Diagonal are calling the government's response to the Freedom Convoy a 'siege'⁴ and have

- claimed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) is intentionally cutting truckers off from essential supplies such as food, water and medications in both Ottawa and Coutts, Alberta;
- claimed the RCMP may attempt to disrupt cell towers to ensure that the truckers cannot communicate outside of the demonstration; and,
- shared directories, including the names of all members of the Ottawa Police Service. s.38

⁴ A 'siege' is a military operation where the enemy cuts off essential supplies with the goal of making an enemy surrender. For Diagonal, this implies that both the federal government and RCMP are cutting truckers and protesters off from essential supplies to facilitate compliance. s.38

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